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Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
(303) 312-6306

FOIA REQUEST
Fee benefit requested
Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of communications sent to or from EPA Region 8 headquarters regarding therapy dogs.

Specifically, I am interested in emails, and any attachments to the emails, beginning in November 2015 to date of processing sent to or from Suzanne Bohan. I am also interested in emails, and any attachments to the emails, beginning in November 2015 to date of processing sent by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs to EPA Region 8 staff.

Secondly, I request access to and copies of records – should the following information not be included in the correspondence requested -- detailing the start date of the visits by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, the reason for initiating the visits, as well as the number of staff requests for therapy dogs, numbers of staff attending therapy dog sessions.

I would like to receive all information in a digital format (.pdf, .doc, .docx, .xls).

This is a follow-up request to request reference number EPA-R8-2018-007887. After receiving visitor logs for EPA Region 8 from January to May 2018 which detailed monthly visits from the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) I am interested in learning more about the service provided to EPA staff from ATD. This is in the public interest regarding understanding the mental health impact of government service, particularly given potential high-stress situations stemming from increased workloads, budget issues, and any decrease in staff numbers.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. This information is being sought on behalf of *ThinkProgress* for dissemination to the general public. Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of

otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or email, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Kyla Mandel